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E.O. 12958: N/A

***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****

BODY

TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, KPAO, GM

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: GWOT U.S.LEBANON;BERLIN

A. LEAD STORIES SUMMARY

B. (GWOT) PRESIDENT BUSH'S DETAINEE POLICY

C. (U.S.) ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

D. (LEBANON) UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES

A. LEAD STORIES SUMMARY

HEADLINES

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BLAIR MUST GO - "RESIGNATION WITHIN A YEAR" (FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE)
BLAIR ANNOUNCES THE END OF HIS ERA (SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG)
HEALTH REFORM TO BE POSTPONED (DIE WELT)
COALITION REMAINS STUBBORN WITH ITS PLAN FOR A HEALTH CARE REFORM (FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU)
GRAND COALITION POSTPONES ITS BIGGEST PROJECT (TAGESSPIEGEL)
IT'S TOUCH AND GO WITH HEALTH CARE REFORM (BERLINER ZEITUNG)
EDITORIALS FOCUSED ON THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE HEALTH CARE REFORM PLANS, BETTER CONTROLS OF THE GERMAN FOOD MARKET, AND PRESIDENT BUSH'S SPEECH ON SECRET CIA PRISONS. ZDF-TV'S EARLY EVENING NEWSCAST HEUTE AND ARD-TV'S EARLY EVENING NEWSCAST TAGESSCHAU OPENED WITH STORIES ON THE HEALTH CARE REFORM.

B. (GWOT) PRESIDENT BUSH'S DETAINEE POLICY

1. "A PIRQUETTE, NO TURNABOUT"

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT REYMER KLJVER HAD THIS TO SAY IN AN EDITORIAL IN CENTER-LEFT SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG OF MUNICH (9/8):

"IN A FIRST REACTION TO GEORGE W. BUSH'S SPEECH, WE COULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT THE U.S. PRESIDENT HAS NOW MADE A CLEAN SWEEP IN THE DIRTY WAR ON TERROR BUT NOTHING COULD BE MORE WRONG.... EVEN THOUGH BUSH IS NOW STRIVING FOR A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE DETAINEES OF THE WAR ON TERRORISM, HE CONTINUES TO INSIST ON OLD POSITIONS. BUSH NOT ONLY APPROVED 'ALTERNATIVE QUESTIONING METHODS' - THAT IS WHAT HE EUPHEMISTICALLY CALLED THEM - FOR ALLEGED TERRORIST FIGHTERS, BUT HE EVEN LOUDLY PRAISED THEIR EFFECTIVENESS. THERE IS A REASON WHY HE REFUSES TO MENTION THESE QUESTIONING METHODS BECAUSE HE WOULD THEN HAVE TO ADMIT THAT HE CONTINUES TO SANCTION TORTURE SUCH AS THE NOTORIOUS WATERBOARDING....

"AND HE IMPRISONED ONLY 14 AL-QAIDA PRISONERS IN GUANTNAMO BUT NOT BECAUSE THEIR TRANSFER FROM CIA DUNGEONS WAS OVERDUE BUT BECAUSE THE INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS THINK THAT IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO SQUEEZE MORE SECRETS OUT OF THEM. IN ADDITION, BUSH CONFIRMED THE EXISTENCE OF SECRET PRISONS BUT THERE IS NO TALK ABOUT THEIR CLOSURE.... AND HE SAID THE U.S. FORCES WOULD STICK TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THEN SUGGESTS ESTABLISHING MILITARY TRIBUNALS WHOSE METHODS WOULD NOT COMPLY WITH THE RULES LAID DOWN IN THE CONVENTIONS. TO PUT IT DIFFERENTLY: THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES THE WAR ON TERROR AS BEFORE....

"BUT IT IS NOT THE TIME TO EXPRESS MORAL OUTRAGE AGAIN...SINCE THE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE APPROVINGLY ACCEPTED THE PRACTICES BUSH HAS NOW ADMITTED. THIS TURNABOUT IS RATHER AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE THE PRESIDENT AT HIS WORD: BUSH IS TALKING OF THE GENERAL VALIDITY

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OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND HIS GOVERNMENT WANTS TO DISCUSS INTERNATIONAL LEGAL NORMS WITH THE EUROPEANS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM. THIS CAN BE INTERPRETED AS A COMMITMENT."

2. "INVALUABLE DAMAGE"

***** START OF SECTION 2 *****

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/PAPD, EUR/PPA, EUR/AGS, INR/EUC, INR/P,
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STEFAN DIETRICH JUDGED IN AN EDITORIAL IN CENTER-RIGHT FRANKFURTER
ALLGEMEINE (9/8):

- "EVEN IF PRESIDENT BUSH IS RIGHT WITH HIS ALLEGATION THAT THE
'ESTABLISHMENT OF CIA PRISONS ABROAD WAS 'INVALUABLE FOR AMERICA AND
ITS ALLIES,' THE QUESTION MUST BE RAISED WHETHER THE PRICE DOES NOT
EXCEED THE VALUE. AMERICA HAS MAINLY PAID WITH ITS CREDIBILITY.
EUROPE STILL REMEMBERS THE CONDESCENSION WITH WHICH WASHINGTON
REACTED TO THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, DICK
MARTY.... A SPOKESMAN FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT SCOFFED AT THE
REPORT.... NOW BUSH HIMSELF PRESENTED THE FACTS. SOME GOVERNMENTS
- INCLUDING SOME FROM EUROPE ? - THAT HAVE THUS FAR DISPUTED THE
EXISTENCE OF SUCH PRISONS ON THEIR TERRITORY SHOULD NOW TURNING RED.
THEY PROBABLY RELIED ON BEING REPAID FOR DOING PART OF THE DIRTY
WORK FOR AMERICA IN THE WAR ON TERRORISM. IT WOULD ONLY BE GOOD IF
THIS CONFIDENCE IS TO BE DAMAGED TODAY, TOO."

3. "ONLY UNDER PRESSURE"

OLIVIA SCHOELLER NOTED IN AN EDITORIAL IN LEFT-OF-CENTER BERLINER
ZEITUNG (9/8):

- "THOSE WHO LISTEN TO THE U.S. PRESIDENT KNOW THAT THIS CONFESSION
WAS NOT MADE OUT OF CONVICTION BUT WAS MADE UNDER PRESSURE. BUSH
DEFENDED THE SECRET PRISONS THAT THE CIA OPERATED FOR YEARS ARGUING
THAT THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY TO CAPTURE AL-QAIDA MEMBERS AND TO
PREVENT ATTACKS. APART FROM THE FACT THAT EXPERTS DOUBT THIS VIEW
AND CONSIDER CONFESSIONS THAT WERE MADE UNDER TORTURE NOT AS
UNRELIABLE SOURCE IN THEIR INVESTIGATIVE WORK, BUSH'S POLICY, WHICH
HE IMPLEMENTED ALMOST ON HIS OWN, CONTRADICTS THE SPIRIT AND THE
LAWS OF THE OLDEST DEMOCRACY IN THE WORLD, THE DEMOCRACY THAT THE
U.S. PRESIDENT WANTS TO EXPORT."

4. CENTER-LEFT NURNBERGER ZEITUNG (9/8) ARGUED:

"THE U.S. PRESIDENT AND HIS CLOSED CIRCLE OF ADVISORS, WHICH

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CONSISTS OF BIGOT HARDLINERS, AGAIN SUCCUMB TO THE ILLUSION THAT EVERYTHING IS ALLOWED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST EVIL, ACCORDING TO THE MOTTO: THE END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS. BUT THE CONTRADICTION BETWEEN POLITICAL GOALS AND ILLEGAL METHODS IS ONLY INCREASING THE LACK OF CREDIBILITY OF AMERICA AND ITS ALLIES. TYRANNY CANNOT BE FOUGHT BY SUSPENDING HUMAN RIGHTS 200 YEARS AFTER THEIR ANNOUNCEMENT WITHOUT IMPUNITY."

5. "SITUATION GETTING SERIOUS FOR BUSH"

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT TORSTEN KRAUEL FILED THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL FOR RIGHT-OF-CENTER DIE WELT OF BERLIN (9/8):

"GEORGE BUSH'S DECISION TO TRANSFER AL-QAIDA'S LEADING PERSONNEL FROM SECRET CIA PRISONS TO GUANTANAMO IS LIKE TAKING THE BULL BY THE HORNS, FOR HIS HEAD IS AT STAKE.... IN 1966, CONGRESS ADOPTED A 'BILL AGAINST WAR CRIMES'...AND THIS ACT IS ALSO VALID FOR THE PRESIDENT.... ON WEDNESDAY, BUSH RAISED ONLY ONE DEMAND TO CONGRESS: IMMUNITY TO ALL SIDES INVOLVED. AND THIS IN SEPTEMBER BEFORE CONGRESS ENTERS INTO AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN THAT COULD RESULT IN THE VICTORY OF THE OPPOSITION.... THE U.S RULE OF LAW HAS SEEN TO IT THAT AL-QAIDA IS TAKEN TO THE COURT, BUT IT WILL NOW PROBABLY SEE TO IT THAT AL-QAIDA'S WORST ENEMY, GEORGE W. BUSH, WILL ALSO FACE A TRIAL."

6. "INHUMANE"

KLAUS VON DER BRIE CONCLUDED IN CENTRIST HANNOVERSCHE ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG (9/8):

"WE HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED SO MUCH CHUTZPAH: PRESIDENT BUSH CONCEDES THAT THERE WERE SECRET, ILLEGAL CIA PRISONS AND ILLEGAL QUESTIONING METHODS, AND IS NOW EXPECTING PRAISE AND RECOGNITION FOR IT IN THE U.S. ELECTION CAMPAIGN. HOW CAN AN ELECTED DEMOCRAT COME TO SUCH IDEA? EVEN THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 9/11 ATTACKS DOES NOT

***** START OF SECTION 3 *****

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/PAPD, EUR/PPA, EUR/AGS, INR/EUC, INR/P,
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JUSTIFY SUCH TACTIC. BUSH'S CONFESSION DESERVES A CLEAR REACTION: HE MUST BE SENT TO THE STOCKADE BECAUSE, WITH HIS TOLERATION, NOT ONLY U.S. LAWS ARE VIOLATED BUT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE ALSO TRAMPLED ON. DOES BUSH SERIOUSLY BELIEVE HE WILL SUCCEED IN FIGHTING TERROR WHEN HE DISREGARDS THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RULE OF LAW?...

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"BECAUSE BUSH IS DETERMINED TO ARBITRARILY INTERPRET THE LAWS OF HIS COUNTRY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERROR, HE HAS FORFEITED EVERY CLAIM TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST 'ROUGE STATES.' THOSE WHO CONSIDER HUMAN RIGHTS NULL AND VOID SHOULD NOT ACT AS A JUDGE OVER OTHERS."

7. "CHANGE OF TACTICS IS DUE NOW"

CHRISTOPH REISINGER OBSERVED IN RIGHT-OF CENTER NEUE OSNABRÜCKER ZEITUNG (9/8):

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION FINALLY GIVES UP ITS DAMAGING TACTICS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISTS RANGING FROM LAW-FREE AREAS, **SECRET PRISON** TORTURE, AND JUSTIFICATIONS TO AN EXCESSIVE WAR RHETORIC. ALL THIS IS DETRIMENTAL BECAUSE IT GLOBALLY LEAVES THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS SOMETHING TO THE HYPOCRITICAL DIATRIBES OF MILITANT ISLAMISTS TOWARDS THE WEST."

8. "NEW TACTICS IN OLD STRUCTURES"

THOMAS SPANG OPINED IN AN EDITORIAL IN LEFT-OF-CENTER WESER-KURIER OF BREMEN (9/8):

"AT FIRST SIGHT, THE PRESIDENT'S CONFESSION THAT THERE ARE CIA PRISONS AND THAT THE PRESENTATION OF NEW GUIDELINES FOR THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS BY U.S. ARMED FORCES LOOKS LIKE A COURAGEOUS STEP. BUT AT CLOSER INSPECTION, WE RECOGNIZE THE SHREWDNESS BEHIND IT. WHILE BUSH IS BINDING THE MILITARY TO STICK TO THE RULES OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS, HE CONTINUES TO ALLOW THE CIA TO USE ITS NEFARIOUS ACTIVITIES.... WE MUST ALSO CONSIDER IT GOOD PR BUT WORRISOME POLITICS THAT HE PUSHES FOR QUICK TRIALS AGAINST¹⁴ AL-QAIDA PRISONERS, NOW IMPRISONED IN GUANTNAMO. NO ONE HAS PREVENTED THE PRESIDENT OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS FROM PUTTING THEM ON TRIAL...BUT NOW BUSH IS CREATING AN ARTIFICIAL HASTE TO URGE CONGRESS TO ADOPT NO LESS QUESTIONABLE LAWS. HIS INSISTENCE ON TRIALS WHERE DEFENDANTS WILL NOT GET ALL THE EVIDENCE USED IN A TRIAL AGAINST THEM OR WHERE CONFESSIONS WILL BE USED THAT WERE OBTAINED THROUGH 'ALTERNATIVE METHODS' CONTRADICTS EVERY DEMOCRATIC TRADITION AND OFFERS A BAD MODEL. SEEN FROM THIS POINT, BUSH IS NOT EXPERIENCING A SUDDEN CHANGE OF MIND BUT HE IS TRYING TO CONTINUE TO WALK OLD PATHS WITH NEW TACTICAL MOVES."

9. CENTER-RIGHT LANDESZEITUNG OF LİNEBURG (9/8) HAD THIS TO SAY:

"BUSH'S CONFESSION CONFIRMS THE PREJUDICE OF ISLAMIC FANATICS THAT THE WEST REPRESENTS AMBIGUOUS MORALS. THE VALUE OF A GLOBAL, **SECRET DETENTION** SYSTEM IS MAINLY BASED ON THE FACT THAT NO ONE CHECKS THE RESPECT OF THE UN ANTI-TORTURE CONVENTION, WHICH WASHINGTON ALSO SIGNED, BEHIND THE FENCES. EVEN DEMOCRATS WHO ARE FACING REPREHENSIBLE IDEOLOGIES SHOULD NOT FALL SHORT OF THE MORAL STANDARDS THAT ARE THE BASIS OF THEIR FORM OF GOVERNMENT. THE MORAL

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DECLINE OF THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION IS JEOPARDIZING THE CHARACTER THE OF THE STRONGEST DEMOCRACY IN THE WORLD. AND IT HAS TARNISHED THE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS THAT KNEW ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED ON THEIR SOIL."

C. (U.S.) ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

1. RIGHT-OF-CENTER MINCHENER MERKUR HAD THIS TO SAY:

"AMERICANS AND EUROPEANS WERE QUITE SUCCESSFUL IN FIGHTING THE AUTHORS OF 9/11. THE MOST SERIOUS MISTAKE WAS TO BE TAKEN IN BY THE TERRORISTS, BY VIOLATING ONE'S OWN VALUES AND LEGAL NORMS. IF EUROPEANS TODAY POINT THEIR FINGER NOT AT TERROR BUT AT THE AMERICAN ALLY (AND THE ONES WHO ARE PRIMARILY AFFECTED), THEN THIS IS A SAD CONSEQUENCE OF THIS UNFORGIVABLE MISTAKE. TERRORISM LEFT NOT ONLY A

***** START OF SECTION 4 *****

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: GWOT U.S.LEBANON;BERLIN

TRACE OF MURDER AND DEVASTATION BUT ALSO CREATED A DEEP MORAL RIFT BETWEEN PARTNERS AND FRIENDS. WHAT A TRIUMPH FOR TERROR THAT THESE PARTNERS HAVE BECOME ALIENATED FROM EACH OTHER IN THEIR FIGHT FOR COMMON GOALS."

D. (LEBANON) UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES

1. CARSTEN KJHNTOPP COMMENTED IN NATIONAL RADIO STATION

DEUTSCHLANDFUNK OF COLOGNE (9/7):

"THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT REQUESTED HELP FOR CONTROLLING THE COUNTRY'S WATERS. A MAJORITY OF THE LEBANESE CITIZENS APPARENTLY UNDERSTANDS THAT IT IS A GREAT PROBLEM THAT THE MILITARY FRACTION OF HEZBOLLAH IS STILL HEAVILY ARMED.... FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO SECURE THE BORDERS AND STOP THE SMUGGLING OF WEAPONS IS A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD FOR THE LEBANESE PEOPLE. ONE THE ONE HAND, INCREASED CONTROLS ARE AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARDS REESTABLISHING THE COUNTRY'S SOVEREIGNTY. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT HURTS THE PEOPLE'S PRIDE IF FOREIGN SOLDIERS GUARD THE COAST OR CHECK THE LUGGAGE AND CARGO AT PORTS. THE CONDITIONS LEBANESE POLITICIANS SET IN RECENT DAYS MUST BE SEEN AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND. THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IS WORRIED THAT THE WELL-INTENDED INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE COULD UNDERMINE THE COUNTRY'S SOVEREIGNTY. UNFORTUNATELY, THESE POLITICIANS ARE ALSO SUPPORTED BY THE WRONG GUYS, NAMELY HEZBOLLAH AND ITS ALLIES, WHO WANT TO PREVENT EFFECTIVE BORDER CONTROLS.... GERMANY SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE LEBANESE PEOPLE STILL STRUGGLE TO ACCEPT

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RESTRICTIONS ON THEIR REGAINED FREEDOM."

2. "NOTHING BUT WINDOW DRESSING"

BERTHOLD KOHLER OPINED IN CENTER-RIGHT FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE

(9/8):

"THE BLOCKADE OF AIR TRAFFIC HAD BECOME FULL OF HOLES ANYWAY AND THE SYRIAN-LEBANESE BORDER IS VERY OPEN FOR WEAPONS SMUGGLER. THE GREATEST ARMADA IN THE WORLD CRUISING ALONG THE LEBANESE COAST COULD NOT CHANGE THIS. HOWEVER, THE BATTLESHIPS AND GROUND FORCES ARE SUPPOSED TO DEMONSTRATE TO ALL PEOPLE IN THE REGION THAT RESOLVING THE CRISIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT GOAL FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. THAT WILL ONLY BE CREDIBLE IF UN TROOPS ARE GIVEN A SERIOUS TASK THAT THEY CAN PURSUE INDEPENDENTLY. GERMAN SOLDIERS SHOULD NOT GO THERE FOR AS WINDOW DRESSING."

3. "MISSION AND ITS REGULATIONS"

STEFAN KORNELIUS EDITORIALIZED IN CENTER-LEFT SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG OF MUNICH (9/8):

"THE CHORUS OF PEACEMAKERS FOR LEBANON IS QUIET ALL OF A SUDDEN AFTER THE FIRST PROBLEMS OCCURRED. IT IS EASIER TO CALL FOR A CEASEFIRE THAN TO ACTUALLY IMPLEMENT ALL THE DETAILS TO CREATE PEACE. THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH WANTED TO CAPITALIZE ON ITS GOOD REPUTATION ON ALL LEBANESE GROUPS AND THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, IS NOW CAUGHT BETWEEN THE FRONTS.... GIVEN THE PRESSURE FROM THE HEZBOLLAH MEMBERS IN THE CABINET, THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT PLAYS TACTICAL GAMES OVER THE MANDATE AND SENSELESSLY DEMANDS AN UNCONTROLLABLE SEVEN-MILE ZONE ALONG THE COAST AND CONTROLS OUTSIDE OF THIS ZONE ONLY AFTER LEBANON'S PERMISSION. SUCH RULES OF ENGAGEMENT WOULD BE STUPID. THEY WOULD NOT JUST CONTRADICT THE INTENTION OF THE UN RESOLUTION ON THE CEASEFIRE. THEY ARE ALSO AN INSULT TO REASONABLE PEOPLE AND WOULD PUT SOLDIERS AT RISK. IF THE GERMAN NAVY CRUISES ALONG THE LEBANESE COAST TO CALM GERMANY'S CONSCIENCE AND NOT TO HELP PACIFY THE COUNTRY, IT WOULD MAKE ITSELF RIDICULOUS AND VULNERABLE. THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT MUST THEREFORE USE ALL ITS AUTHORITY TO MAKE CLEAR TO ALL LEBANESE PARTIES THAT IT IS DETERMINED TO IMPLEMENT THE UN PLANS."

4. CENTER-RIGHT WESTDEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG OF ESSEN (9/8)

REMARKED:

***** START OF SECTION 5 *****

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"THE MISSION MUST NOT TURN INTO A FARCE. THIS WOULD BE THE CASE IF LEBANON INSISTS THAT FRIGATES ONLY OPERATE OUTSIDE A SIX-MILE ZONE AND CHECK ON SUSPECTED WEAPONS SMUGGLER ONLY AFTER HAVING TALKED TO THE LEBANESE MILITARY. THIS WOULD DOWNGRADE THE NAVY TO PARALYZED SUPERNUMERARIES BECAUSE WEAPONS ARE SMUGGLED NEAR THE COASTLINE. SECONDLY, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT BERLIN AND THE UN MUST NOT ALLOW EXTREMISTS TO SET THE CONDITIONS IN THE LEBANESE CABINET. THERE CANNOT BE A GERMAN MISSION AT ALL COSTS."

5. RIGHT-OF-CENTER THIRINGER LANDESZEITUNG OF WEIMAR HAD THIS TO SAY:

"A FOREIGN MISSION OF THE BUNDESWEHR HAS RARELY BEGUN SO CONFUSED. THE HEZBOLLAH MEMBERS OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT KNOW WHY THEY WANT THE GERMAN NAVY TO STAY MILES AWAY FROM THE COAST. ABOVE ALL, THE LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER AGREES TO THIS SHAMEFUL GAME. CRUISING THE HIGH SEAS WITHOUT EFFECTIVE CAPACITIES IS WORTHLESS. THE SHIPS MIGHT AS WELL STAY AT HOME OR MONITOR THE LEBANESE COAST FROM THE NORTHERN GERMAN TOWN OF KIEL."

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